Appl. No. 10/047,085
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2005

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification is corrected as required.

Claims 9-10, and 16-17 are rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

Form PTO-2038 is enclosed authorizing the sum of $600.00 additional filing fee for three additional independent claims.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the restrictions of original claims 2, 4 and 5, in order to clarify the difference from the reference cited by the examiner, and to rectify the informalities that the first and the second secondary values are not clear. Claim 3 is corrected as requested.

Withdrawal of the objections to the specification and claims in view of the above amendments, is requested.

Claims 1-8 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103 over the combination of Kohler (USP 6,778,300) with Usami (USP 6,160,912). Claim 1 now has the features of original claims 2, 4 and 5.

Claim 2 is rejected by the Examiner with the assertion that

"Kohler in view of Usami satisfy all the
elements of claim 1. Kohler further discloses
wherein in accordance with a predetermined
black component correcting condition (col. 11,
ln. 4-17), the black component correcting

-14-

Appl. No. 10/047,085
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2005

> section (Fig. 5, black generation algorithm
> 182) compares a value of the black component
> data K with a first boundary value(col. 7, ln.
> 9-19 ),...the black component correcting
> section (Fig. 5, black generation algorithm
> 182) reduces the value of the black component
> data in accordance with the value of the black
> component data K and the maximum value (col.7,
> ln. 9-38)." (Emphasis added)

However, Kohler does not disclose that the black component correcting section reduces the value of the black component data in accordance with the value of the black component data K and the maximum value. Kohler discloses (in col.7, ln. 9-11) that

> "a common amount of 20% can be removed from
> each of cyan color component 151 and magenta
> color component 152 and yellow color component
> 153 and replaced with a K color component to
> represent the black appearance."

In contrast, in Claim 1(amended) of the present invention, the black component correcting section reduces the value of the black component data in accordance with the value of the black component data K and the maximum value.

As described in the present specification (page 7, line 14-bottom), the object of the present invention is to provide an outputting device capable of discriminating between the case where a certain color is overlaid with black and the case where only

-15-

Appl. No. 10/047,085
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2005

black is present in color proof. By <u>reducing the value of the</u>

<u>black component data in accordance with the value of the black</u>

<u>component data K and the a maximum value of the component data Y,</u>

<u>M, C,</u> the above object can be achieved.

Kohler has no disclosure or suggestion to discriminate the

overlaid black from the black, therefore the idea of reducing the

black component data in accordance with K value and maximum value

of Y, M and C values cannot be derived from Kohler.

The first and the second boundary values are clarified in the

claim 1 (amended) such that

> <u>"the first boundary value is a value not</u>
> <u>smaller than 50% and smaller than 100%, the</u>
> <u>second boundary value is a value not smaller</u>
> <u>than 0% and smaller than 80% as converted into</u>
> <u>halftone dot area ratio expressed by percent."</u>

The first boundary value is a value to be compared with the black

component value, and it is a predetermined value within a certain

range. And the second boundary value is a value to be compared

with the maximum value of the component data Y, M, C, and it is a

predetermined value within a certain range. This is followed by

the description of the present specification (page 36, line 11 -
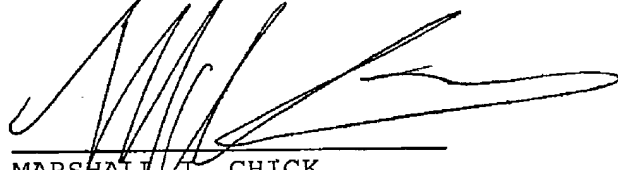
page 37, line 14).

-16-

Appl. No. 10/047,085
Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2005

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present

invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art.   Withdrawal

of the rejections and allowance of the application are

respectfully requested.

                                        Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.:  Form PTO-2038 authorizing the sum of $600.00 for 3
        additional independent claims over 3

                              -17-